

# Patrick O'Flaherty



It started in 1974...the first time my brother Danny and I played together was at a wedding on Capitol Hill for Jeannie McGuinness. That is where we met Danny Coleman, future owner of **The Dubliner**, the second Irish Pub in Washington D.C. The first, of course, was the legendary **Matt Kane's Little Bit of Ireland**.

For a few years we were known as The O'Flaherty Brothers. Then we were joined by Scotsman Norrie Arnott, and took the name **Celtic Folk**. Many talented musicians joined us over the next several years including Mel Spence, Vincent Quinlan, Kenny Kosek, Noel Nash, Helt Oncale, Robin James-Jones, and Misha Kachkachisvilli. Over the years we played in many interesting places: on Sint Maarten in the Caribbean, twice in Israel, at the **National Democratic Club**, at President Reagan's Inaugural Ball, and at **Solidarity Day** in 1981. The *Celtic Folk* has performed concerts around the country (at **Notre Dame University** or Galveston's **Grand Opera House**, for instance), given guided tours of

Ireland, and played regularly at **O'Flaherty's Irish Pub** in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In 1993, six regular musicians at O'Flaherty's joined forces and became **The Poor Clares**. The original members were Betsy McGovern, Justin Murphy, Beth Patterson, Randy Randolph, James McCormick, and myself. *The Poor Clares* have also played some interesting gigs including: the **New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival**, the **Milwaukee Irish Festival**, the **National Geographic Society**, and **Carnegie Hall** in Lewisburg, West Virginia. In 1996, *The Poor Clares'* second CD, **Change of Habit**, climbed to number 26 on the Folk/Roots Charts.

Currently, I have ten CD's available, including *Change of Habit* and a solo recording, **Andrea's Brown Eyes**. I also have one DVD for sale, **A Night in Gaelic in New Orleans** recorded live with my brother Danny at *O'Flaherty's Irish Pub* in the French Quarter. My music can be heard on the recordings many other artists, and on the soundtrack of **French Quarter**, a Mind's Ear Audio production about New Orleans. I also collaborated with John Hall, putting together a musical soundtrack for a Civil War documentary that plays at **Antietam National Battlefield**.

In addition to my musical endeavors, I have worked to promote awareness about Ireland. I was a founding member, along with Pat Troy and my brother Danny, of a group in Washington D.C. called **Americans for Irish Awareness**. In Houston, I started the **Dick Dowling Society** with Jay Dooling.

While I continue touring with both *The Poor Clares* and the *Celtic Folk* on occasion, I also do a solo act at festivals, schools, radio shows, hospitals, concerts, and pubs. And soon, I will be performing regularly here at the Irish Pub on Washington Street!